

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee

Membership Balance Plan

- (1) **Name:** Bureau of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee
- (2) **Authority:** Departmental Authority, through a Secretary of Commerce
- (3) **Mission/Function:** The Bureau of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee advises the Director, U.S. Census Bureau on the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities including: communications, decennial, demographic, economic, field operations, geography, Information Technology, research and methodology and other initiatives.

The committee addresses census policies, operations, cost efficiency, innovation and a broad range of survey methodological concerns to ascertain needs and best practices to improve overall census operations and programs.

The committee provides formal review and feedback on internal and external working papers, reports and other documents related to the design and implementation of census programs and surveys.

(4) **Points of View:**

A) The Bureau of the Census Bureau Scientific Advisory Committee consists of up to 21 members. Committee members represent academia, private enterprise, associations and nonprofit organizations, which are further diversified by business type or industry, geography, and other factors. Member expertise encompasses demography, economics, geography, psychology, statistics, survey methodology, social and behavioral sciences, Information Technology and computing, marketing and other fields of expertise, as appropriate, to address Census Bureau program needs and objectives. Membership balance is not static, and the expertise or experience relevant to the mission/function of this Committee may change over time, depending on the work of the Committee and agency needs.

(B) The anticipated distribution of candidates will reflect 1-2 members of each category.

(C) Currently, members are 'Special Government Employees' appointees, reflecting 'Individual' membership or 'Representative Members' from organizations. Incorporating both types of membership enables the Census Bureau to appoint industry representatives from organizations or corporations (as Representative Members), and/or individuals with distinction in academia or diverse technical subject areas.

(5) **Other Balance Factors:**

- Technical and scientific knowledge vs. industry-based expertise
- Geographic diversity
- Gender
- Perspective

(6) **Candidate Identification Process:**

A) The CMO, in conjunction with the DFO and Census subject matter staff identifies candidates from a diverse network of organizations, corporations and institutions from across the country. A Federal Register Notice is published and placed on the Census webpage to solicit nominations from the

public as well as notifications to an extensive list of Census Bureau stakeholders.

(B) The DFO and CMO, in conjunction with an internal nominating team of Census professionals will develop a candidate list for executive evaluation and review.

(C) A short list of the best qualified candidates is transmitted to the Director of the Census Bureau for review and final approval/selection. The resulting top candidates will be contacted for interest and availability. Formal letters of invitation to serve on the Committee are extended to selected appointees by the Census Director. If vacancies occur during the life of the Committee, the Census Director reviews the needs of the Census Bureau and initiates a new selection process to fill vacant seats as described above.

(D) Pending the needs of the agency, members will generally serve a three-year term, although shorter terms of one or two years are permissible on a case-by-case basis.

(7) **Subcommittee Balance:** The process that will be used to determine advisory committee member balance for the parent Federal advisory committee will be used for any subcommittees that may be created.

(8) **Other:** Not Applicable

(9) **Date Prepared:** February 20, 2014